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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,787	03/05/2002	Koji Kasuga	8032-1002	8831

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EXAMINER

DUONG, THOI-V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,787

Applicant(s)

KASUGA, KOJI

Examiner

Thoi V Duong

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 ~~is~~/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 ~~is~~/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (USPN 6,411,359 B1).

With respect to claims 1-5, as shown in Figs. 1-3, 7, 18, 31 and 32, Kobayashi et al. discloses a liquid crystal display comprising;

a liquid crystal display panel PNL;

a lamp unit including a lamp LP and a lamp holder GB receiving said lamp (Figs.

7 and 18a);

a light guide plate GLB; and

a case assembly including a rear case MCA behind said liquid crystal display panel, said rear case having said lamp unit and said light guide plate on a surface thereof in a manner to hold them in operative relationship, with said lamp unit kept independent from said light guide plate (see also Fig. 18a),

wherein said crystal display panel includes a substrate FPC2 (Fig. 1), and said rear case is formed with a storage portion receiving said substrate and has a board PCB as a lid concealing said storage portion (Fig. 32);

wherein said rear case is formed with an opening providing an access to said lamp holder, the opening contains the lamp holder GB (Figs. 18a and 31);

wherein said lamp holder includes a reflector LS partly surrounding said lamp;

wherein said rear case includes elements PJ locating said light guide plate on said surface at a predetermined position with respect to said lamp unit (Figs. 18a and 18c).

With respect to claim 9, as shown in Figs. 1-3, 7, 18, 31 and 32, Kobayashi discloses a method for assembling a lamp unit, a light guide plate and a liquid crystal display panel, comprising:

using a rear case MCA to have a lamp unit LP on a surface of said rear case (Fig. 7);

locating a light guide plate on said surface using elements PJ in operative relationship with said lamp unit (Fig. 18a);

placing a liquid crystal display panel PNL over said light guide plate, said liquid crystal display panel including a substrate FPC2 (Fig. 1);

placing a front case SHD over said liquid crystal display panel to cooperate with said rear case to form a case assembly (col. 12, lines 26-44);

putting said substrate into a storage portion on the backside of said rear case (Fig. 32); and

placing a board PCB as a lid to conceal said storage portion and said substrate (Fig. 32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (USPN 6,411,359 B1) as applied to claims 1-5 and 9 above and in view of Komano (USPN 5,375,005).

Kobayashi et al. discloses a liquid crystal display that is basically the same as that recited in claims 6-8 except that the locating elements are not provided to locate said liquid crystal display panel as well as said light guide plate and the rear case does not include means for urging said light guide plate into close relationship with said lamp unit. Komano discloses a liquid crystal device comprising holding members 31a through 31d, for effectively supporting a liquid crystal panel 11, a light guiding plate 21 and a lamp unit 22 as well as for assuring easy assembly (col.1, lines 61-66). As shown in Figs. 1-4, these holding members are disposed on the four corner portions of a rear

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case 13 and comprise a positioning unit 33 for the liquid crystal panel, a positioning unit 34 for the light guide plate, and a positioning unit 35 for the lamp unit (col. 4, lines 8-21). In addition, the rear case also includes lugs 80 as a bias element for urging the light guide plate into close relationship with said lamp unit (col. 5, lines 52-64). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the liquid crystal display of Kobayashi et al. with the teaching of Komano by forming the locating elements to locate the liquid crystal panel as well as the light guide plate so as to improve structure of positioning and assure easy assembly for the display.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached at (703) 305-3492.

Thoi Duong



05/02/2003


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER